



OSP

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
HALEY BARBOUR, GOVERNOR
MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
LELAND R. SPEED
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March 3, 2004

Dr. Helen N. Parker
Regional Administrator
Employment and Training Administration
United States Department of Labor
61 Forsyth Street, S.W., Room 6M12
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Dr. Parker:

On behalf of the Mississippi Development Authority-Employment Training Division (MDA-ETD), the administrative entity in Mississippi for the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), I am requesting an extension of the waiver to increase the limitation on transfer of funds from Adult and Dislocated Worker funding streams to 50%. This waiver extension would apply to Program Year 2003 and subsequent years. The MDA-ETD asks that the expiration date of the waiver be extended from June 30, 2004 to June 30, 2005.

The reasons cited by the MDA when we submitted the initial request for a waiver on April 7, 2003 still exist. We believe that providing the local workforce investment boards with greater flexibility in the administration of their finances continues to be crucial in these times of limited funds and fiscal challenges and that such a measure will continue to ensure a more effective delivery of WIA programs and services in Mississippi.

Additionally, the Workforce Investment Act prescribes a strong role for local workforce investment boards and the private sector in strategic planning, policy development and oversight of the local workforce investment system and its activities. WIA recognizes local flexibility as a key element in the process of developing comprehensive systems designed to meet the needs of the local labor market.

Mississippi likewise endorses local flexibility and is continually committed to taking whatever steps are necessary to help our local workforce areas best serve the state's job seekers, underemployed, dislocated workers, youth, and employers. We believe that our

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TRAINING ADMIN.

Dr. Helen N. Parker

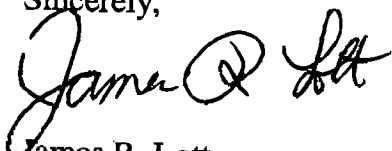
March 3, 2004

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local workforce areas continue to be most successful when given latitude to make decisions based upon their in-depth knowledge of their areas, while still operating within the parameters of the Act.

Thank you for your consideration of this request for extension. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact me at (601) 359-9265 or via email at jlott@mississippi.org. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James R. Lott".

James R. Lott

Director

Employment Training Division

JRL:jlw

State of Mississippi
Workforce Investment Act
Request for Extension of Waiver:
Transfer Authority

The Mississippi Development Authority- Employment Training Division (MDA-ETD), as the administrative entity of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) in the State of Mississippi, submits this request for extension of the initial waiver to increase the transfer authority of Local Workforce Investment Boards to 50% for Adult and Dislocated Worker funds. This extension will continue to provide the Local Boards with greater flexibility for responding to changes in their local labor markets, and will help ensure that the WIA funds allocated to each local area continue to be utilized in a way that will maximize customer service. The waiver extension will apply to Program Year 2003 and subsequent years.

In keeping with the guidelines set forth at WIA Section 189(i)(4)(b) and 20 CFR Part 661.420(c), please accept the following as a request for a waiver extension.

1. Identification of Statutory or Regulatory Requirements to be Waived-

WIA Section 133(b)(4) and 20 CFR Part 667.140 state that a Local Board may transfer, if such a transfer is approved by the Governor, not more than 20 percent of the funds allocated to the local area... for a fiscal year between Adult employment and training activities and Dislocated Worker employment and training activities.

The State of Mississippi requests that Local Boards continue to be allowed to transfer up to, but not more than, 50 percent of a program year allocation for Adult funds and up to, but not more than, 50 percent of a program year allocation for Dislocated Worker funds between the two funding streams.

2. Actions Undertaken by the State to Remove State or Local Statutory or Regulatory Barriers-

There are no State or local statutory or regulatory barriers to implementing the proposed waiver extension.

3. Goals of the Waiver Extension and Expected Programmatic Outcomes if Waiver Extension is Granted-

The anticipated goal is continued increased flexibility for the local areas in allocating and expending Adult and Dislocated Worker funds. Such flexibility would continue to enable local areas to better serve the needs of their customers

and would continue to heighten their ability to respond to changes in the local labor market.

4. Individuals Impacted by the Waiver Extension-

All Adults and Dislocated Workers, as well as business customers, will continue to benefit from the waiver extension. Extending the ability of the Local Boards to move substantial funds to the areas of greatest need will continue to ensure optimum service to the general population of that workforce area.

5. Process Used to Monitor Progress Upon Implementation of the Waiver Extension-

The MDA-ETD, as the State administrator and overseer of WIA, will continue to monitor all transfers of funds by the Local Areas.

6. Local Board and Public Review and Comment-

The initial request was developed as a result of concerns expressed by local areas. As with all other major policy and procedural decisions made by the State, we relied heavily upon input from local area staff and boards. The problems with the 20% limitation on funds transfers between Adult and Dislocated Worker funding streams had been discussed with the local areas to gain input on those problems and on the benefits of being granted the initial waiver. The initial waiver request had been provided to the local areas for review and comment prior to its submission. Local areas were encouraged to enlist input from Local Boards when considering the initial waiver request.

U.S.DOL. ETA
ATLANTA

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO:	Sean Kelly	FROM:	Rosa M. Crowley
COMPANY:	Division of One Stop - OWI	DATE:	4/2/2004
FAX NUMBER:	(202) 693-3015	TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER:	4 plus cover
PHONE NUMBER:	(202) 693-3994	SENDER'S REFERENCE NUMBER:	(404) 562-2119
REF:	Waiver Request Extension - MISS	YOUR FAXENCE NUMBER:	(404) 562-2153

☒ URGENT ☒ FOR REVIEW ☐ PLEASE COMMENT ☐ PLEASE REPLY ☐ PLEASE RECYCLE

NOTES/COMMENTS:

This is to transmit and request approval of a request by the Mississippi Development Authority Employment Training Division (MDA-ETD) to extend their initial waiver request of the WIA funds for Adults and Dislocated Workers funding stream 50% limitation.

I have read the waiver request and recommend national office's approval. Should you have questions regarding this request, please contact me at (404) 562-2119 or via E-Mail Crowley.rosa@dol.gov.

Attachment

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